

KEARSLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

FOR 1907.

BY

J. C. EAMES, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AND

GEORGE WALSH,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.


ISSUED BY

THE KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FEBRUARY, 1908.

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Medical Officer's Report.

BARNFIELD HOUSE, STONECLOUGH,
FEBRUARY 13th, 1908.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

You may remember that my last two Annual Reports have been fairly favourable. I am glad to state that that for 1907 is better still, in fact in many respects the best we have had. Our population is again taken at 9,600, which is certainly not a high estimate, and our area remains the same, 996 acres. This gives an average of 9·6 per acre, greater than that of the County Boroughs, 7·01, and more than double that of the 96 Urban Sanitary Districts, 3·5. As we have a considerable amount of open space this shews that in other parts we must have considerable congestion. Such is unfortunately the fact, and it is in these congested areas that disease seems to continually lurk, and too often break out openly. A proof of this is given by the number of Notifications of Infectious Disease from various localities. From our West Ward, that is in the thickly populated parts running into Farnworth, we have had no less than 47, against 24 from the whole of Kearsley Moor, and only 5 from Lower Kearsley.

In these areas it is not only that the houses are badly built and too close together, thus preventing the free access of air and sunshine, but the character of those inhabiting them, that makes them unhealthy. These people are no doubt in the first place drawn to them by the low rents, and then make them worse by neglect of all sanitary arrangements and even common cleanliness. In

schools Hygiene is now receiving greater attention, and it is chiefly by making the rising generation appreciate its importance that we may expect a better state of affairs. Example is said to be better than precept, and this gives a very good reason why some of the defects I have too often pointed out in the Schools, and especially their playgrounds, should no longer be allowed to remain.

The fall in our Death Rate of children under one is most satisfactory. This may be partly due to the efforts we have made since that very black year, 1904, when it was just twice as high. I am afraid however, that the explanation is more simple, namely the cold Summer and Autumn. It and our Zymotic Rate depend chiefly on the amount of Diarrhœa in children. Last year there was less than a third as much as in 1906.

I am sorry our Zymotic Rate does not shew a like fall, for though it is helped by the few deaths from Diarrhœa, it receives a large increase from those due to Measles. This disease affects children as a rule of a higher age, only 2 below 1 year dying from it, but 8 between that age and 5. For years I have drawn your attention to the great importance of this disease, and advocated its inclusion in the list of notifiable diseases. To make the closing of schools, as at present, the only attempt at checking its spread, is simply absurd. Why so much more attention should be given to the comparatively harmless Scarlet Fever is one of those things I cannot understand ; though I imagine it must simply be an example of the way in which a bad name once given a poor dog is apt to stick. I quite admit that forty or fifty years ago Scarlet Fever, like Typhus, was much to be dreaded. The latter has, however, become almost extinct, and the former entirely altered in character, so that there is now no comparison between the mortality and other evil results following it and Measles.

Perhaps the worst feature in this Report is the increase in cases and deaths from Typhoid. I believe the substitution of water closets for our too numerous privy

middens would be the best way of keeping down this disease. At present very little is being done in this direction, 15 being all for the year. The cost would not be great, would be really worth the expense to owners of cottage property by the increased value of that property, and might be partly paid by the Council as a work for the general good of the District.

Scarlet Fever has been present with great uniformity throughout the year and unfortunately in a more severe form than usual. The wonderful decrease in cases since we ceased to send many to Hospital has almost disappeared. This only proves the truth of my remarks last year when I warned you we should have our bad years, and that the then "Happy state of things could not continue indefinitely." The advocates of Hospital treatment seem to have altered their ground. Figures having proved conclusively that it does not lessen the number of cases they say it saves the parents or friends trouble and expense. The first may be true, the second decidedly is not. It simply means paying through the rates instead of directly. The cost of Hospital treatment is very much higher than Home. The same arguments might just as well be brought forward for the Hospital treatment of all other diseases from tooth-ache upwards.

Our Birth Rate again shews a slight fall. It was 26·3, against 26·9 for 1906, and an average for ten years of 29·5. That for the whole of England and Wales for 1906 was 27, and for the County 24·9, so you will see we hold a position between the two. This gives an increase of Births over Deaths of 119, against 107 in 1906, and an average for ten years of 119 also. So long as we can keep down the Death Rate of children this low rate is of comparative unimportance, but when, as in recent years, the Birth Rate is low and the Death Rate high, it is worthy of the greatest consideration. Such, I am pleased to say, is now being given to it. There was a National Conference in London, and most valuable recommendations were made. They included the teaching of girls in school some elementary facts in Hygiene, and the rearing of children ;

remedying defects in the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops' Order, and thus securing a supply of pure milk ; early registration of still births, as well as those living ; the insurance of children under one ; prevention of factory work by mothers before and after confinement ; examination of the persons by whom and the places where infants are received to nurse ; and the appointment of qualified women to visit new born children. If these are only carried out, I am sure we shall soon have a better state of things, and without having to pay a premium to parents for keeping their children alive for a year as has been done in some towns.

The Death Rate for 1907 was 13·3, against 15·7 in 1906, and an average for the last ten years of 16·2. There were 128 deaths in the district, but to these must be added six occurring in Public Institutions outside. Three of these were in the Bolton Infirmary, and one each in the Manchester Infirmary, and the Lancaster and Rainhill Asylums. This brings our total rate to 13·9. 29 deaths were of those under 1 ; 22 between 1 and 5 ; 7 between 5 and 15 ; 4 between 15 and 25 ; 41 between 25 and 65 ; and 31 over 65. Most took place in March, 16 ; and September, 13 ; fewest in November, 6 ; and July, 8. Bronchitis and Pneumonia caused 17, against 19 in 1906 ; Measles 10, against 2 ; Cancer 9, against 5 ; Consumption 6, against 9 ; Diarrhœa and Heart Disease 5, against 17 and 9 ; Typhoid 4, against 2 ; Scarlet Fever 3, against 0 ; Diphtheria, Alcoholism, Premature Birth, Accidents, and Suicides, 2 each. It will be seen the chief increases are in Measles and Cancer, the decreases in Diarrhœa and Consumption. The cold, damp Summer and Autumn accounts for the Measles and Diarrhœa, but the other 2 are more complex.

The 29 deaths of children under a year old is much the fewest we have ever had. It was 59 in 1904, and 58 in 1898 and 1901. It gives the proportion to 1,000 Births in the district of 114, against 166 the previous year, and an average for the last ten of 183.

The Zymotic Rate from the seven principal epidemic diseases was 2·5, against 2·7 in 1906, and an average for ten years of 2·6.

The Notification of Infectious Disease were 76, against 29 in 1906, and an average for the eight years, since it became general, of 85. 53 were of Scarlet Fever, 13 of Enteric, 4 each of Diphtheria and Erysipelas, and 2 of Puerperal Fever.

During our Annual Inspection of the District in the Autumn your Nuisance Inspector and I found too many of our former causes of complaint still present. The chief improvements were the paving of Mather and Garden Streets, and the substitution of water closets for privies in Edward Street. The paving or sewerage or both of Cemetery Road, Dale Street, Gerrard Street, Back John Street, top end of Church Street, Oakes Street, and Jackson Street are still required. The deficiency of privies in Fletcher Street, Back Fletcher Street, Parsonage Court, and Chapel Street also continues. The school yards of the Bolton Road Council, Kearsley Moor, and Lower Kearsley Wesleyan, still require proper paving or asphaltting. We found the tripe shop in Market Street much less objectionable, but it is in a very congested area. The top of Hilton Street and along the Church wall was much more dry, but in Oakes Street many yards were full and dirty and in want of paving, fowls being far too numerous. In Clifton Street the objectionable closing in of the back doors had ceased. In Cross Place the privies were in much better condition, but there were only 4 to 8 houses. In Old House Croft the back yards were unpaved and one very dirty. In Walton Place the privies and their surroundings were in a disgustingly dirty state, and many of the houses required whitewashing.

The Square near Thomas street, though greatly improved, requires some paving near the houses, and the drains attending to, as water seems to lodge, Back Fallow court ditto. In Primrose street the yards are better, but many of the privies in a very poor condition, leaking, rain

coming through the roof, and the doors broken and off
Fowls also present.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES satisfactory except for the very confined spaces in which they are situated.

BAKEHOUSES also well kept but with the same objection in some cases,

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES fairly good, but in the case of Tebay's there is still no manure pit, and no proper place for keeping the milk. The same is the case at Wild's. Fido's were having a dairy built, but it was in a bad situation, the entrance being through a scullery. Chatton's wanted whitewashing and a manure pit badly, being more closely surrounded by houses than the others.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS were inspected but nothing worthy of special remark noticed.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—Your Inspector has again taken numerous observations; notices demanding abatement have again been sent out in large numbers; promises have again been freely given, and again as freely broken. The result is practically nothing but a waste of time and paper. This, perhaps, is not to be much wondered at considering that many of our neighbours are worse offenders in the matter. I am afraid this subject, like a pure milk supply, will have to be taken in hand by the County Council before it is satisfactorily settled.

In conclusion, I would specially beg for your attention to these points—the substitution of water closets for the ashpit privies, and the paving of back-yards and streets.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. EAMES, M.D.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1907 and previous Years.

KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non Residents regis- tered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.					
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	9250	274	29·6	42	153	143	15·4				143	15·4
1898	9600	295	30·7	58	196	163	16·6				163	16·6
1899	10000	279	27·9	52	186	162	16·2				162	16·2
1900	10000	287	28·7	53	184	156	15·6			1	157	15·7
1901	9350	254	27·1	58	208	155	16·5			4	159	17·3
1902	9400	294	31·2	46	156	150	15·9			3	150	16·2
1903	9400	301	32·2	57	187	176	18·7			4	180	19·1
1904	9500	257	27	59	229	167	17·5			4	171	18
1905	9500	243	25·5	42	172	134	14·1			4	138	14·5
1906	9600	259	26·9	40	166	151	15·7			1	152	15·8
Averages for years 1897-1906	9560	274	29·5	51	183	155	16·2			3	158	16·4
1907	9600	253	26·3	29	114	128	13·3			6	134	13·9

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 996.

Total population of all ages, 9,218. No. of inhabited houses, 1,883.

Average number of persons per house 4·8 at Census of 1901.

TABLE III.
 KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
 Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1907.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.						No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At Ages—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65		65 and upwards
Small Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup).....	4		2	1		1	
Erysipelas	4					4	
Scarlet Fever	53		22	28	2	1	
Typhus Fever.....							
Enteric Fever.....	13		1	2	4	6	
Relapsing Fever.....							
Continued Fever							
Puerperal Fever	2				1	1	
Plague							
Totals.....	76		25	31	7	13	

TABLE IV.
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.
Cause of, and Ages at Death during Year 1907.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox							
Measles	10	2	8				
Scarlet Fever.....	3		2	1			
Whooping Cough.....							
Diphtheria and membranous croup	2	1	1				
Croup							
Fever. { Typhus	4		1			3	
{ Enteric							
{ Other continued ..							
Epidemic influenza							
Cholera							
Plague.....							
Diarrhœa	5	5					
Enteritis..							
Puerperal Fever	1					1	
Erysipelas							
Other septic diseases ..							
Phthisis (Pulm. Tuberculosis)	6			1		4	1
Other tubercular diseases	3		1	2			
Cancer, malignant disease	9					5	4
Bronchitis	4	3				1	
Pneumonia.....	13	1	6			4	2
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.....	2	-	1	1			
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	2					2	
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	2	2					
Diseases and accidents of parturition.....	1					1	
Heart disease.....	5					4	1
Accidents	2				1	2	
Suicides	2					1	
Cong. Debility	12	11	1			1	19
Old Age.....	20						
All other causes	20	4	1	2	1	10	2
All causes.....	128	29	22	7	2	39	29

TABLE V.
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.
Infantile Mortality during the Year 1907.

Cause of Death,		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Week.	2-3 Week.	3-4 Week	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Month.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified ..																	28
	Uncertified ..		1			1												1
Common Infectious Diseases :—																		
{ Small-pox ..																		
{ Chicken-pox ..														1	1			2
{ Measles ..																		
{ Scarlet Fever ..																		
{ Diphtheria : Croup																		
{ Whooping Cough																		
Diarrhœal Diseases :																		
{ Diarrhœa, all forms					1	1		1										2
{ Enteritis									1					1				2
{ (not Tuberculous)																		
{ Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh									1		1							2
Wasting Diseases.—																		
{ Premature Birth..		1	1			2												2
{ Congenital Defects																		
{ Injury at Birth ..																		
{ Want of Breast-milk																		
{ Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus..		5				5	4	2			1							12
Tuberculous Diseases :—																		
{ Tuberculous																		
{ Meningitis..																		
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																		
Pneumonia ..																	1	1
Convulsions..												1						1
Bronchitis ..								1				1				1		3
Other Causes ..			1			1						1						2
		6	2		1	9	4	4	2		2	3		2	1	1	1	29

Population estimated to middle of 1907—9,600.

Deaths from all causes at all ages -128.

Kearsley Urban District Council.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KEARSLEY,

FARNWORTH,

1908.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Seventh Annual Report, I wish to state that a large portion of the undermentioned work has been carried out through my visiting the owners and persons responsible for the sanitary condition of the various premises and pointing out the necessity of the work required to be done. In a great many cases the work has been carried out without the necessity of serving legal notices.

I am sorry to say that sickness during the latter part of the year rather interfered with my work.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	265
Notices Served	...	...	79
Letters Written respecting Nuisances		...	90

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

To open, clean out, and flush choked drains...	21
Construct proper drains	26
Fix stench trapped gullies	31
Repair broken slop pipes	13
Yards flagged or paved	34
Fill up and repair insanitary ashpits	39
Limewash, cleanse, and purify houses on the Certificate of the Medical Officer of Health	19
Houses condemned as unfit for habitation	53
Defective easing troughs and downspouts repaired	13
Water Closets provided in place of privies	15
Privies re-built	9
Miscellaneous Nuisances	42
Total...	265

FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughter Houses, Fish, Fruit and Butchers' Shops, have been periodically inspected. One slight case of Tubercle in the carcase of a cow was found; I called in the Medical Officer of Health who found it such as not to warrant seizure with the exception of the lungs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 76 cases of Infectious Disease reported during 1907. No cases removed to Hospital.

Number of Notifications	...	...	76
Houses revisited	...	...	145
Rooms fumigated	...	...	120

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS, 1907.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	Apr	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Totals.	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Scarlet Fever.	2	4	2	8	4	5	3	5	2	5	8	5	53	13	18	90	55	25	97
Typhoid Fever ...	4	1	3	1					1	2	1		13	7	8	5	22	15	44
Erysipeias					1		1	1				1	4	3	1	5	6	3	3
Diphtheria							1	2		1			4	5	2	14	21	8	5
Puerperal Fever...					1						1		2		1	2		2	
Membran. Group..																3		2	
Continued Fever.														1		1			
Small Pox.....																	1		
Totals	6	5	5	9	6	5	5	8	3	8	10	6	76	29	30	120	105	55	149

I have visited all the cases of Infectious Disease reported as early as possible, and given printed and verbal instructions where necessary, as to the proper means of isolation of the patient; also as to disinfection of the clothing and surroundings. At the termination of each case the house was fumigated, and all necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Careful attention has been paid to the drains, privies, and milk supply, and defects found have been remedied.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been inspected at intervals, and also along with the Medical Officer of Health.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been regularly inspected. At four of the farms the dairy accommodation was found unsatisfactory. At one farm the drains were found defective, and were all re-laid. At two of the above mentioned dairy accommodation has now been provided, and another is in course of erection. At another farm the Cowsheds we found quite unsuitable; the occupier has now ceased to keep dairy cows.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

24 Smoke Observations have been taken during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

GEORGE WALSH,

Inspector of Nuisances.